

Appl. No.: 10/554,979
Amdt. dated June 23, 2009
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2009

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please delete the following paragraph:

[Translator's Note: In the source the text on this page is cropped on the right. Brackets are used in the translation below to indicate where the cropped text cannot be read clearly]

On page 1, after the Title and before the paragraph that begins "The invention relates to ..." please insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

The invention relates to a device for the illumination of the stope supports in a longwall face ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~. In the customary manner and necessary [?] each stope support in a longwall face is provided with light sources by means of which the stope support and bordering longwall face can be illuminated. Since [it] it must be assumed that a longwall face has 100 stope supports or more, [it] it is obvious that the illumination of the stope supports requires a significant complexity which is made all the more difficult since, for reasons of safety technology, the power supply voltage for the illumination elements must be low in order to avoid sparking during switching.

On page 1, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

The objective of the invention is to equip the device for the illumination of the stope supports ~~with~~ with little complexity in such a manner that the device is safe.

On page 1, please delete the following line:

The realization follows from claim 1.

On page 1, after the paragraph that begins "The objective of the invention is ..." and before the paragraph that begins "The special feature of this realization consists of ..." please insert the following heading:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS

On page 1, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

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The special feature of this realization consists of the fact that the present equipment ~~of the~~ of the stope supports and the system controller is utilized and that in particular ~~the~~ the supply lines carrying voltage and voltage transformers and, in given cases, rectifiers are superfluous. In this way the control power supply units required for the supply of power, which consist of voltage transformers and rectifiers and serve to supply power to the system controllers, are simultaneously also utilized to supply power to the light sources.

On page 2, please delete the following line:

This makes the extension of the invention according to claim 2 possible.

On page 2, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

The extension of the invention ~~according to claim 2~~ provides that LEDs, i. e. light-emitting diodes, are used as light sources, said LEDs today ensuring good illumination with white light and low demand for power. The use of the LEDs permits long-term operation of the light sources in the extension of the invention according to claim 3 without impairment of the illumination which, in given cases, would have to be accepted in the bargain with light sources which consume more power.

On page 2, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

The extensions of the invention ~~according to claim 4~~ serves the purpose of always illuminating operated system controllers so that the process in the longwall face is always visible to the operator.

On page 3, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The extensions of the invention ~~according to claims 5 to 9~~ serve the purpose of avoiding an overload of the control power supply unit due to the demand for power of the light sources, even when control power supply units of relatively low nominal power are used with relatively low nominal current.

On page 3, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

In the extension of the invention ~~according to claims 6 to 7~~, on the one hand, an overload of the control power supply unit and, on the other hand, the shifting, or any other movement, of a stope support when a person is present is avoided. This is based on the insight that, when a person is present at a stope support, that stope support may not be pushed back so that, for reasons of safety, the system controller corresponding to the same stope support is locked and switched off during the switching of a light source. The illumination is therefore done when needed, i. e. when a person is present. In the development according to the claim, this switching on of the light source can be done by hand by the operator at the respective system controller or the associated stope support.

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On page 3, please amend the fourth paragraph as follows:

It can however, ~~as provided by claim 7~~, also be done by presence detectors, e. g. motion detectors. In this case the presence detector has a double function, namely the switching on of the light source and the switching off of the system controller which an operator approaches.

On page 3, please amend the fifth paragraph as follows:

In the development of the invention ~~according to claim 8~~, on the one hand, complexity in the high-voltage system is avoided since ...

On page 4, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

The good illumination of a stope support also depends on the number of light sources. Through the extension of the invention ~~according to claim 9~~ the capability is provided of supplying a greater number of light sources from one control power supply unit or light power supply unit without increasing its nominal power or causing an increased demand for power which, in given cases, leads to the failure of the power supply unit or to the switching off of the illumination.

On page 4, after the first full paragraph, please insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

After the above heading, please insert the following:

FIG. 1 depicts a longwall face in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 depicts a longwall face in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 depicts a longwall face in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 depicts a longwall face in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 5 depicts light sources in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

On page 4, after the addition above and before the paragraph that begins "In the following the invention is described ..." please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please delete page 8.